

JOINT INFORMATION CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 30, 2012

DOTD reopens all state routes in East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes

Baton Rouge, La. - The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) today announced that all state routes in East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana and Pointe Coupee parishes have been cleared of debris and reopened.

DOTD crews will continue to work diligently to clear and reopen roadways in other parishes impacted by the storm.

"I would like to commend our staff at DOTD for their hard work and dedication in clearing these roads so quickly after the storm," said DOTD Secretary Sherri H. LeBas. "It took a big effort from everyone on our team to make this possible."

DOTD urges motorists to use extra caution when traveling on roadways during hazardous weather conditions and stay off the roads whenever possible. Motorists should drive slowly and carefully, and avoid driving while distracted. Always allow for extra driving time, reduce speeds when visibility is low, and make sure there is plenty of room between vehicles. As always, DOTD reminds motorists to buckle up and refrain from drinking and driving.

DOTD is working in conjunction with law enforcement and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security to issue information to the public regarding road closures and alternate routes. Citizens can access this information on real-time traffic and road conditions by using the 511 Traveler Information System simply by dialing 511 from their telephone and saying the route or region about which they are seeking information. Out-of-state travelers can call 1-888-ROAD-511 (1-888-762-3511). Travelers can also access this information by visiting the 511 Traveler Information Web site at www.511la.org. Motorists can also obtain information regarding road closures by contacting DOTD's Customer Service Center at 1-877-4LA-DOTD (1-877-452-3683). The center is typically open from 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday through Friday, but has extended its hours during the storm.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is committed to delivering transportation and public works systems that enhance the quality of life. In addition to more than 16,600 miles of roadway, including over 890 miles of interstate, DOTD supports the development of the state's aviation, marine and rail infrastructures. Through this work, we are able to facilitate economic development, create job opportunities, improve vital evacuation routes, and make critical freight corridors safer and more efficient.